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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Majestic and Holy God, we give You honor and praise. Your power and beauty fill the Earth. You command the oceans to roar and the fields to rejoice. Thank You for the treasure of Your love that provides us with strength for today and hope for tomorrow. When we fall, You help us up.

Today, bless our Senators. Remind them that wisdom brings understanding and knowledge gives power. Use them as instruments of Your will. Make them Your faithful stewards, and may they find joy in Your service. Give them the humility to trust You and obey Your teachings. Bless also those who support our lawmakers in their work.

Lord, we close this prayer by asking You to protect our military men and women in harm's way. We pray this in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will begin consideration of the appropriations process by turning to the Interior appropriations bill. Senator BURNS and Senator DORGAN are our two managers, and we expect to begin consideration of amendments.

Last night, following completion of the Energy bill, we reached an agreement on the Interior bill that first-degree amendments are to be offered today and Monday. We have commitments from several colleagues that they will be available today to offer amendments, and therefore we will make progress on the bill over the course of the day.

I announced last night that no votes would occur today as well as Monday. However, we will be in session both days working through the Interior bill so that we can finish that bill very early next week. We will start voting on amendments to this appropriations bill on Tuesday.

As a reminder, we have scheduled a vote on passage of the Energy bill at 9:45 a.m. on Tuesday.

Next week, in addition to completing the Interior appropriations measure, we will also complete work on the Homeland Security appropriations bill. It may be possible to consider other appropriations matters as we move through the week. As always, we will be turning to additional legislative and executive items that can be cleared for action during next week.

Again, I thank everybody for their cooperation on the Energy bill. It is a tremendous success for this body. Members on both sides of the aisle came together in order to finish that bill, as we had planned, within 2 weeks.

I will be returning to the floor of the Senate later today with several statements, including one on the Interior appropriations bill.

I yield the floor.

### DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2361, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2361) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Appropriations with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

[Strike the part shown in black brackets and insert the part shown in *italic*.]

H.R. 2361

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

[That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, namely:

### [TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

#### [BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

#### [MANAGEMENT OF LANDS AND RESOURCES

[For necessary expenses for protection, use, improvement, development, disposal, cadastral surveying, classification, acquisition of easements and other interests in lands, and performance of other functions, including maintenance of facilities, as authorized by law, in the management of lands and their resources under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, including the general administration of the Bureau, and assessment of mineral potential of public lands pursuant to Public Law 96-487 (16 U.S.C. 3150(a)), \$845,783,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$1,000,000 is for high priority projects, to be carried out by the Youth Conservation Corps; and of which \$3,000,000 shall be available in fiscal year 2006 subject to a match by at least an equal amount by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for cost-shared projects supporting conservation of Bureau lands; and

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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